

Dear Parents,

03/25/08

I hope you have enjoyed this past spring vacation, and you found time to relax with family and friends. Students are becoming increasingly anxious for the end of the school year, as we are now moving into our final marking period. Friday March 14th ended our third marking period and Tuesday March 25th begins our final marking period for the 2007-2008 school year. Teachers are working to complete grades for this past marking period, and most, if not all instructional staff members, devote part of their spring vacation to finalizing their third quarter grades. Teachers will submit their grades on Tuesday, March 25th to the district office for processing. Report cards will be mailed soon thereafter. As the district handles thousands of grade cards each quarter, you might expect to receive your child's grade card in the mail by March 31st or sooner ☺. Please be patient.

Parents of senior students, you are almost there, so don't let up. This is the time of year when students tend to become side tracked and forget that passing their classes and attending daily is necessary to insure their graduation. Hopefully you have diligently been keeping track of your child's progress and have talked with your child and their counselor, either in person, via e-mail or by telephone, about how they are progressing. Counselors will be busy initiating communications with parents of students who are at risk of not graduating. If a counselor contacts you because they are concerned about your child, don't take this as a negative, but as a proactive step to help insure they stay focused on the task at hand, and that is to graduate! Many times students forget that they must attend daily in order to receive full credit for their classes, and if they go beyond the districts allowed unexcused absences, they could lose credit for any given class and possibly jeopardize their graduation. It is vital that if your child is home sick, that you call in for them and excuse their absence. We are also approaching the district's "25-day" rule for suspensions. This rule will be further explained in my April letter. Basically this "25-day" rule for suspensions says that if a student is suspended for any reason as defined in Administrative Regulation 6145.1(a)

{[http://www.srcs.k12.ca.us/AdminRegs/AR%20-%20Series%206000%20-%20Instruction/AR%206145.1\(a\)%20High%20School%20Ineligibility%20for%20Participation%20in%20Extra-Curricular%20and%20Co-Curricular%20Activities.pdf](http://www.srcs.k12.ca.us/AdminRegs/AR%20-%20Series%206000%20-%20Instruction/AR%206145.1(a)%20High%20School%20Ineligibility%20for%20Participation%20in%20Extra-Curricular%20and%20Co-Curricular%20Activities.pdf) } they will not be able to walk at graduation, as graduation is defined as an Extra-Curricular event.

Parents of juniors and seniors, college visits are an important event for students to gain valuable information. Colleges/Universities are usually here on campus during lunch periods and are announced at the beginning of third period. This Friday, MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) will be on campus during lunch, as MIT has singled out Santa Rosa High School, as having highly qualified students with the "right stuff" for success at MIT. If your child is a junior and/or a senior, and they are interested in learning more, please encourage them to attend an informational meeting in our MPR this Friday during lunch break. Yes, they may bring their lunch with them. They should sign up in our main office so MIT will have an idea on how much information they need to distribute. I am looking to have our website (www.santarosahighschool.net) updated so that all future college/university and/or post secondary opportunities are posted for all to view.

Parents of sophomores, please read the previous paragraph, as I would not want motivated students at any age to miss an opportunity to gain valuable information about their future. This is at time in which sophomore students are really reaching their stride. Many are turning 16 and hoping to drive to school as we move through this spring semester. Please remember, they must have an approved parking sticker affixed to their car rear window before they may park on our parking lots. These students are also coming into a time in their life when many are seeking their first jobs and will need work permits. These may be picked up in the main office. Parents, you are now almost half way through your child's high school career, keep up the good work!

Freshman parents, this is a great time to begin (if not already begun) your conversations with your child about what direction they would like to take for their future. They are completing their first year of high school, they are no longer new to the rigors of post middle school education and they have begun to set a path for the next few years. Many freshmen have gained new friends, strengthened old relationships,

pushed themselves in new realms of academics and sports, and can now say they are an active part of the Santa Rosa High School tradition. Santa Rosa High School is all about Excellence, Pride, and Heritage and each student who attends Santa Rosa High School learns this from the first time they set foot on these hallowed grounds as an underclassmen.

The counseling staff has begun the work of developing next year's master calendar and we will put this forth as soon as possible. It is my strong desire to be able to give your student(s) a glimpse at their fall schedule before they leave school at the end of May. Typically they are not able to see their schedule until orientation in August, but I do hope to have this completed by the time we dismiss for summer vacation.

Remember, summer school this year (and possibly next) will be on a limited basis, therefore it is unlikely that any freshman and/or sophomore will be able to take summer school courses from Santa Rosa City Schools. If you wish to have your student take classes at the Junior College and/or online this summer, please talk to your counselor before proceeding. This will ensure they will receive credit for their hard work.

Reminder, next month we will begin administering the California STAR Test, which is mandated by The State of California to measure the success your child is achieving in their classrooms. This is an excellent source of feedback information for every parent, as you will receive a detailed report of your child's academic abilities, both strengths and weaknesses. It is not secret that schools too receive feedback in how well they are meeting the needs of their populations, and consequently they have the ability to adjust how instruction is delivered and/or focused to ensure students are reaching beyond the state minimum expectations. Schools who do not succeed at a level prescribed by NCLB (No Child Left Behind Act) may be sanctioned by the State of California and severely impact their funding. Therefore having each child to their best during STAR test has multiple positive impacts. As I outlined previously the benefits students and families receive from these tests results and additionally, to ensure Santa Rosa City Schools continue to receive future state funding from Sacramento. I have included a letter from Superintendent Liddell to school administrators regarding this exact matter.

To All,

This is for your information and not meant to create anxiety, but you, as professionals should know what is happening in our state to schools that are declared "underachieving." We in SRCS definitely are not on this list nor do we want to slide in at any time. About half-way through the article below are some other districts besides Modesto that are involved.

Secondly, our most recent information from Sacramento is that the State Board of Education went with the CDE/Governor's recommendation but took out the language that made the actions contingent upon funding. This means that now the 97 districts are left holding the bag if the Legislature doesn't appropriate money. Instead of the State Board or Governor being in the position to advocate with the Legislature for funding for these districts, it will be up to the districts to advocate with the Legislature.

In the midst of the state fiscal crisis, these 97 districts that have been listed as underachieving will now be faced with advocating for money to provide interventions and meet the requirements of being on this list.

Finally, please post and share this information with your staffs and the community so that they will know what schools are facing if they do not meet NCLB, as well as the impacts of the state budget crisis. Our staff, community, and parents should contact our Legislators, Governor, and State Board of

Education. Let them know that education must not bear the burden of the state's fiscal crisis. In fact, the state must devise a funding source that will put us at the top of the country in funding per student, so that our children can receive the education enabling them to compete in the future.

Sincerely,

Sharon E. Liddell, Ed.D.

My next Fireside Chat will be Wednesday, April 16 at 6:30 pm in our high school library. This is a forum where staff, students, parents, and community members attend and have an opportunity to ask questions of myself regarding school policies, activities, events or anything else that comes to mind. There is no written agenda. Please remember this is not the time to delve into personal matters concerning individual situations. I will have my calendar present and could make appointments later to meet with you privately during school hours. The following is a list of dates and times for future Fireside Chats:

April 16th @ 6:30 pm in the high school library
May 21st @ 6:30 pm in the high school library (last one for the 2007-2008 school year)

I am sure you are well aware of the financial crisis education in the State of California is facing, and our School Board of Education for Santa Rosa City Schools is trying to address the projected shortcoming through a series of proposed reductions. You may view and/or comment on these proposed reductions by logging onto the Districts webpage at, <http://www.srcs.k12.ca.us/>, and click on either line one or two below "Latest News", depending on your preference of Spanish or English. This will allow you access to the proposed reductions and allow you to make comments that will go directly to the School Board members. Remember, they serve the public and were elected by you, so please help them by commenting on as many items as possible. They can only serve when well informed, so please take this opportunity to let them know how you feel about each proposed change.

Additionally, you will find several more important topics to review in the "Latest News" segment. If you can spare the time to read, review and/or comment on **Project Achieve** and the proposed changes to **Board Policy 5126**. I know you will begin to understand the complexities our School Board representatives face each year, and the decisions they must make. Without your input they will only guess at what is best for your children. Please spend the time to voice your opinion, each voice does count, and one is heard.

Upcoming Dates:

March 27th @ 6:30 pm ArtQuest Spring Showcase event – Don't miss the talent!!
March 28th @ 12:15 pm MIT visits SRHS campus

Thank you and have a great week. If you have suggestions and/or comments regarding this "e-news" letter, please forward your reply to me. I will respond to all e-mails.

Sincerely,

James Goddard
SRHS Principal
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GO PANTHERS!